

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 3 November 2021

Title: Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: Annual Report

Report of: Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Planning and Regeneration

Cabinet member: Councillor Jonathan Dow - Lead Member for Climate Change

Ward(s): All

Purpose of report: To note progress to date and approve publication of the Annual Update (Appendix 1)

Decision type: Key

Officer recommendation(s): (1) To approve the 'Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030' Annual Update as attached in Appendix 1 for publication on the website

(2) For Cabinet to note progress to date on the strategy action plan as contained within Appendix 1

Reasons for recommendations: To progress towards the aims of achieving Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030 as resolved in July 2019

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1 Introduction

1.1 This paper reports on the progress of the Climate Emergency Strategy adopted one year ago and action plan that was approved by cabinet in November 2020 as a result of the Climate Emergency Declaration made at Full Council in July 2019. The strategy sets out the borough wide vision for Eastbourne Carbon Neutral by 2030 (ECN2030).

This is being published in November which coincides with the UN Climate Summit, COP26, being hosted in Glasgow.

1.2 The report provides an overview of how work has progressed on the initial action plan and how this work has evolved over the last year. It provides an update to the policy context within which we are working as Central Government catch up on their strategy commitments post-Covid, and a brief summary of the key

findings of the 'Working Group I' contribution to the IPCC's 6th assessment report on the physical science basis of climate change.

1.3 Appendix 1 has been brought forward for approval by Cabinet. It is designed to contain the same information as this report plus a little more on specific projects. The Appendix will be placed as a standalone document on the council climate change web page alongside the Strategy itself.

1.4 The report provides a summary emission report for the years 2019/20 and 2020/21 along with a progress summary against the baseline year 2018/19.

It shows that there has been a 15% reduction on the baseline. This reduction should be viewed through a Covid pandemic lens taking into account the reduced use of some of our buildings.

The council is now on a zero carbon green electricity tariff and from next year will report zero emissions from its electricity use through we will still seek to reduce consumption as best practice dictates and in order to mitigate against market price increases.

This data has highlighted issues with the fuel and power consumption of buildings even when they are used less. The council acknowledges that the decarbonising of heat and the improvement of building management is key to meeting our carbon reduction targets.

1.5 Scope 3 (indirect) emissions data is being gathered and work continues to improve the amount and quality of the data collected to enable the council to manage and reduce those emissions for which we are responsible.

1.6 The carbon footprint of the borough has reduced by 6.8%.

No analysis is carried out on the borough data and it is provided for monitoring purposes only this year. A more in-depth analysis of borough and council emissions will be carried out in 2024/25. This should enable a review of the figures pre, during and post Covid-19 lockdowns.

Partnership working remains key to the success of any local authority's climate change and carbon reduction ambitions and this is no different for Eastbourne Borough Council. Working with our partners such as: the Eco-Action Network; the Sussex Local Nature Partnership; the South Downs National Park and the Universities of Brighton and Sussex; as well as our neighbouring local authorities and other community groups, we have progressed regional and local projects regarding: the use of hydrogen as a fuel through Hydrogen Sussex; the decarbonisation of social housing; the retrofitting and decarbonisation of private sector housing; the potential use of community investment; enabled funding bids by others; produced a regular sustainability email bulletin for residents and one on the theme of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'; nature based solutions for carbon capture regionally; grant funded local projects and made land available for tree planting projects, amongst many other things that are detailed within the update to the Theme Areas and the Action Plan Update within Appendix 1.

2 Update to the national policy context

2.1 The Environment Bill

This bill is key to the implementation of legally binding targets for environmental improvement and initiatives such as reversing wildlife decline, animal re-introduction, tree planting, and deposit return schemes. It remains in progress as the Government consider the Lords proposed amendments.

Energy White Paper

Published in December 2020 this paper sets challenging ambitions for enabling net zero energy by 2050 and what it will mean for consumers and businesses.

Future Homes Standard

In January 2021 the government published their response to the future homes standard consultation. It outlines what changes will be made to building regulations to improve the energy efficiency of new homes and the pace that these changes will occur. The standard intends to ensure that all new homes built from 2025 will produce 75-80% less carbon emissions than homes delivered under current regulations and that these homes will no longer be reliant on fossil fuels, requiring no future refurbishment to reach zero carbon status.

Bus Back Better

This strategy was published in March 2021 and sets out the vision and opportunity to deliver better bus services across England. Contained within it is a requirement for the local transport authority, East Sussex County Council, to publish a local Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Decarbonising Transport - a better greener Britain

Published in July this strategy commits the government to, amongst other things, decarbonising all forms of transport, decarbonising the freight and logistics sector and maximising the benefits of low carbon fuels.

UK Hydrogen Strategy

This policy paper published in August 2021, sets the approach the government is taking to developing the low carbon hydrogen sector to meet the UK ambition of 5GW low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

The Heat and Buildings Strategy

This strategy was published in October 2021. It sets out how the UK will decarbonise our homes, and our commercial, industrial and public sector buildings by 2050. There is clear emphasis on heat pumps and the need to drive down the costs of this technology. It sets the date of 2035 by which time the Government expects all new domestic heating systems to be low carbon and sets out a new grant scheme to facilitate early take up from April 2022.

3 Evidence base update

- 3.1 The Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) is now in its sixth assessment cycle in which the IPCC is producing the 6th Assessment Report

(AR6) due for release in 2022. The synthesis report will frame and assess the historical, current and future of climate change science globally and is contributed to by the IPCC 3 Working Groups.

The IPCC Working Group I (WGI) examines the physical science underpinning past present and future climate change and their report published in August '[AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](#)' underpins the remaining two working groups reports for the AR6 Synthesis Report. The WGI assessment provides scientific information relevant for the global community to meet the challenge of climate change. As well as the global scale, WGI looks at variability and change that is happening at a regional level which is closely tied to how impacts and risks to human and natural systems are changing overtime. This report supports the fundamental reasons why the climate change and sustainability strategy within Eastbourne and beyond is so important at a global scale By bringing together the latest advances in climate science and combining multiple lines of evidence from paleoclimate, observations, process understanding, and global and regional climate simulations .

3.2 Key findings of the WGI include (but not limited to):

- It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred.
- The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole and the present state of many aspects of the climate system are unprecedented over many centuries too many thousands of years
- Human induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heat waves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since the 5th Assessment Report.
- Global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid century under all emissions scenarios considered . Global warming of 1.5 degrees C and two degrees C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions and carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades .
- Many changes in the climate system become larger in direct relation to increasing global warming .
- Continued global warming is projected to further intensify the global water cycle including its variability and the severity of wet and dry events
- Many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions are irreversible for centuries to millennia, especially changes in the ocean, ice sheets and global sea level.
- With further global warming, every region is projected to increasingly experience concurrent and multiple changes in climatic impact drivers. Changes in several climatic impact drivers would be more widespread at 2 degrees C compared to 1.5 degrees C global warming and even more widespread and or pronounced for higher warming levels.
- Low likelihood outcomes, such as ice sheet collapse, abrupt ocean circulation changes, some compound extreme events and warming

substantially larger than the assessed *very likely* range of future warming cannot be ruled out.

- From a physical science perspective, limiting human induced global warming to a specific level requires limiting cumulative CO₂ emissions, reaching at least net zero CO₂ emissions, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions.

4 Eastbourne Borough Council Carbon Emission Report

4.1 This report provides a summary of the carbon report for the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21 along with a comparison of these years with the baseline 2018/19

4.2 From 2018/19 to 2020/21 the Council's scope 1 & 2 emissions have reduced by just over 15% in total.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of emissions by source.

There has been a 0.6% decrease in emissions from gas consumption and a 25% decrease in electricity consumption. All consumption reductions for 20/21 against the baseline must be viewed with a COVID lens as many of our corporate buildings were not used as much during this time.

Our electricity emissions reduction on the base year is 70%.
See table 2 in Appendix 1 for a consumption-emissions comparison.

The bulk of our emissions savings have been made through the move to a verified green electricity tariff. This is a REGO backed tariff and the Council can claim it as zero carbon. We still account for transmission and distribution losses as scope 3 emissions. The Council moved onto the new green tariff on 1st October 2020. It remains key to reduce our consumption through energy efficiency measures as this will also reduce our scope three emissions and reduce our burden on the grid supply.

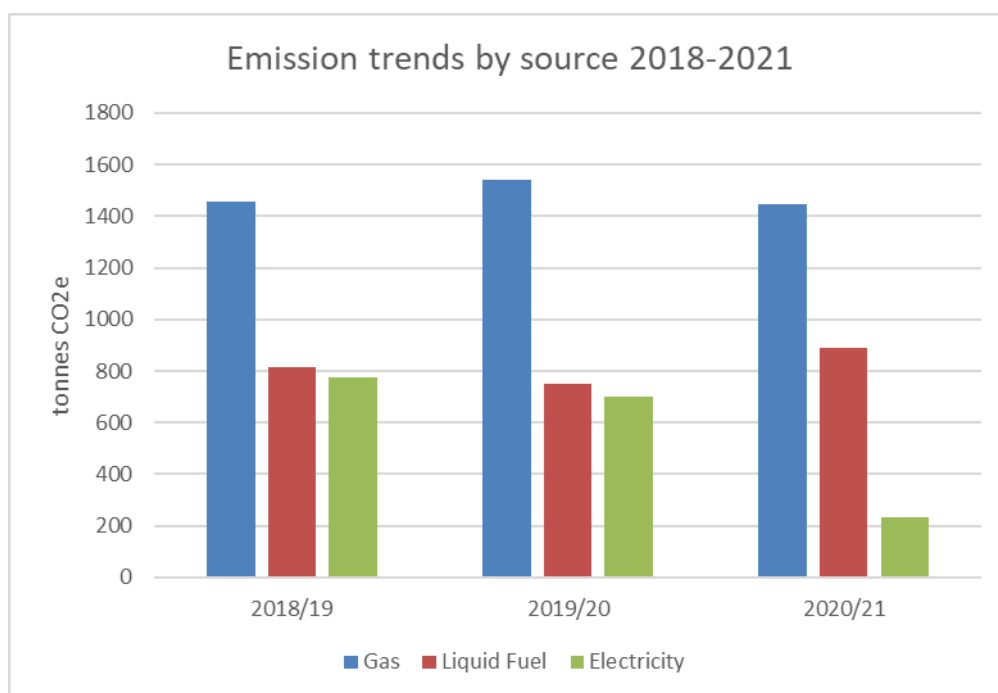
It appears that there is an increase in consumption of diesel of 12%. In 2018/19 refuse collection fuel data was fully estimated due to the new formation of this service (SEESL) in 2019 and the lack of data from the outgoing contractor. The first full year of service collected data is therefore 2020/21 so this year better reflects an accurate record of fuel consumption prior to the implementation of alternate weekly collection in some parts of the town in April 2021. We await the 2021/22 data to assess the impact of this change to collections on both fuel consumption and recycling rates.

There has also been an improvement to the recording of fuel deliveries made to both Eastbourne Golf Course and the Devonshire Park complex though this is a very small proportion of overall fuel consumption and an increase has been seen in the consumption from vehicles attributed to neighbourhood based teams. This highlights the need to transition the smaller fleet and maintenance vehicles to low carbon alternatives as soon as practicable in order to continue to provide the quality of service our residents expect whilst meeting our carbon commitments.

Table 1. Eastbourne Borough Council emissions table

Emissions source	Tonnes CO2e		
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Gas	1457.3*	1541.2*	1449*
Liquid Fuel	815.4	751.9	891.3
Electricity	774.2*	701.7*	233.6*
Total	3046.9*	2994.8*	2573.9*

* the council expects to revise these figures upwards once data is received for the Sovereign Leisure Centre (gas and electricity) and the Congress Theatre (gas only)



4.3 There are 2 omissions from this year’s figures, that of the Sovereign Leisure Centre now that it is managed in-house and the Congress Theatre, for which we are missing gas consumption data. Work is underway to incorporate these figures as soon as possible.

5 Scope 3 emissions

5.1 The Council continues to expand upon its Scope 3 emissions reporting. This year’s report is contained within Table 4 of Appendix 1.

The Council acknowledges that our greatest source of emissions will be from our purchasing and contracting and continues to improve reporting methods. The Council is starting to include clauses in contracts requiring suppliers to report emissions attributed to the contract. We aim to include similar clauses in more contracts moving forward.

6 Eastbourne Borough Carbon Emissions Summary

6.1 BEIS data is reported in the table below for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

The main source of emissions within the borough remains buildings, closely followed by transport.

The Tyndall Centre and the University of Manchester have carried out analysis that recommends a minimum of a 12.3% per year reduction to deliver a Paris aligned carbon budget. The borough as a whole is a long way off meeting this year on year reduction.

The Tyndall Centre 2021 budget tool suggests a cumulative carbon dioxide emission budget of 2.1 million tonnes for the period 2020 to 2100.

At current rates we will use our entire 80 year budget in less than 7 years.

6.2 Eastbourne Borough Council has pledged to help make Eastbourne Carbon Neutral by 2030 and will continue its partnership working to help meet this goal. We must not be put off by the challenge but must rally together and work together to improve the environment of our town for our residents, children, businesses and visitors now and in the future in order to mitigate global climate change.

6.3

Data Source	2017	2018	2019
BEIS data- UK local authority and regional CO2 emissions – data tables (excel) 'territorial emissions'	297.6 kt CO ₂	294.9 kt CO ₂ (less than 1% reduction on 2017)	277.4 kt CO ₂ (6.8% reduction on 2017)

7 The Climate Emergency Strategy -Theme and Action Plan Update

7.1 The strategy currently contains 68 of actions across 7 action areas. A summary of work to date is below- please see the full spreadsheet in section 6 for more information of actions within each area.

40 actions (59%) are currently reported as green, 35% are amber and 6% (4) are red.

Please see Appendix 1 for the full updated action plan.

7.2 Housing and Energy

- The bulk of work within this action area has focused on our social housing, the allocation of government grant funding through the local authority delivery aspect of the green homes grant scheme.
- With regards to our social housing stock, we have completed the stock condition surveys and are currently analysing the data with our consultants. The council is continuing to progress the Decarbonising Our Housing Stock (DOHS) project by working with the Greater Brighton

Economic Board, other local authority partners and universities. Feasibility studies for a pilot project are being undertaken and options for grant funding are being reviewed.

- We have reviewed our tenants experience of having solar panels on their properties and been promoting various environmental activities through tenant publications and events.
- The Council is due to complete its first new modular housing project in Langney Road. These affordable and sustainable council homes were made by Boutique Modern in their Newhaven factory and exemplify the Council's 'Fabric First' approach by having 'super insulation', the Council's commitment to sourcing more local materials and for energy generation through roof mounted solar panels.
- The Council has agreed a new technical advice note for developers that place a greater emphasis on sustainability, both in the planning phase of construction and when work is underway on site. The planning technical advice note (TAN) will apply to any new homes or commercial development, large or small, in the town.
- The Council has helped providers of Government grants to reach Eastbourne residents through 2021 and has been involved in future grant bids for schemes due to start in October 2021 and Jan 2022.
- The Council took part in the publicity of the Solar Together scheme which will in due course provide residents with very competitively priced solar panels.

7.3 **Transport**

- Steps have been taken by Councillors to progress better working with the town's bus operators.
- The Council has moved a step forward towards procurement of an electric vehicle charge point provider and it is hoped this contract will be in place by the end of 2021.
- A new Electric Vehicle Charging Points Technical Advice Note (TAN) has been adopted and sets out the requirements for these charging points to be provided in new housing and commercial developments.
- This theme area was negatively impacted by staffing issues during 2021, thankfully these issues have now been resolved and once statutory responsibilities have been met the Council hopes to further progress sustainable travel and air quality actions.
- Research is underway to improve the emissions from the waste collection fleet and to electrify smaller vehicles.

7.4 **Workplaces**

- Beachy Head Story gift shop has opened, stocking various environmentally conscious and recycled products. The site will continue to investigate new and innovative stock.
- Devonshire Park and Eastbourne Golf Course have replaced diesel powered hand tools with electric versions- these are charged on the corporate zero carbon tariff.

- Land and asset review is nearing completion.
- The use of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) has increased within Tourism and Events due to Covid requiring more a more cautious approach to water distribution at events like the marathon (where plastic bottles will be given out) but work is underway to reduce this again as soon as possible.
- A £1500 grant was provided to the EcoEd 2030 group for progressing their school based energy saving initiatives.

7.5 **Biodiversity**

- The Council has adopted a Biodiversity Strategy and has incorporated these actions within the climate change and sustainability strategy action plan.
- A Biodiversity Technical Advice Note has also been adopted.
- Council land holdings have been reviewed and are in the process of being assessed for possible biodiversity, food and nature-based climate solutions.
- There have been various sites where pollinators have been encouraged through planting and reduced mowing. This work is now considered Business As Usual.

7.6 **Food**

- The council is working with the local Food Partnership coordinator to help create a food partnership and possible future strategy.
- The council is continuing to assess its landholdings for potential community gardens and the Homes First Community development and sustainability specialist is working with councillors and community groups on potential joint projects. A community food growing policy has been developed along with internal procedures which together will provide a framework to enable future projects to progress more easily.

7.7 **Waste**

- Council communications to increase recycling have continued to be a corporate priority. The reduce reuse recycle email bulletin has been well received by members and residents and this has been supplemented by similar themes contained within the climate action email bulletin.
- Alternate weekly collections have been implemented in some areas of the town, fuel consumption will be monitored to see if this reduces emissions as anticipated.
- Lower carbon waste collection vehicles are being trialled and alternative fuels are being evaluated in order to provide a pathway to decarbonisation.
- Digital democracy has progressed seeing the launch of the Modern.Gov app and councillors can now opt out of receiving physical papers for meetings.

7.8 **Climate Adaptation**

- With regards to water consumption, the emerging new local plan will engage with service providers to ensure that areas of water infrastructure deficiency are addressed. There is a sustainability technical advice note

(TAN) available and planning advice needs to gradually strengthen to reduce water consumption requirements further.

- The council has begun to report the carbon emissions from its operational water consumption, this is reported under scope 3 emissions.

7.9 Carbon Capture

- A successful bid was made by the Local Nature Partnership and ESCC to investigate a regional approach to carbon off-setting. Eastbourne Borough Council will directly benefit from this project through the involvement of its Officers.
- A £1500 grant was made to Treebourne to help deliver their tree planting projects.
- Treebourne has made exceptional progress over the last year planting around 14,000 trees at 2 council sites, Sevenoaks park and Tugwell park- the volunteers continue to maintain the saplings.

7.10 In order to investigate alternative financing of projects to tackle the climate emergency, the council applied for and gained competitive funding from the Local Government Association (LGA) to partake in their Net Zero Innovation Programme.

The work carried out with our partners, the University of Sussex, has put in place the foundations of potentially raising a community municipal bond - the work is currently continuing but Eastbourne Borough Council has pledged, as part of the Green Finance Institutes Local Climate Bond campaign, to investigate and explore launching a 'green bond' in the next 18 months.

8 Financial appraisal

8.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

9 Legal implications

9.1 In the measures it takes across its own functions and estate, and those it facilitates with partners on a borough-wide basis, the Council must have regard to the emerging legislative framework alluded to in section 2 of this report. In particular, the Council will need to consider its obligations under the Environment Bill once it becomes law.

Legal advice provided 07.10.21

Legal ref: 010465-EBC-OD

10 Equality analysis

10.1 An Equality Analysis already exists for this topic: Cabinet paper November 2020: [Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: A Plan for Action](#)

11 Environmental sustainability implications

11.1 The strategy is key to delivering the carbon neutrality goal of Eastbourne borough Council by 2030.

It will seek to ensure that carbon implications are taking into account throughout the Council and in all decisions.

Implementation of actions to achieve carbon neutrality is key to mitigate the predicted negative impacts of climate change on the environment, economy and communities.

12 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Eastbourne Climate Emergency Annual Report- November 2021

13 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- Cabinet paper November 2020: [Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: A Plan for Action](#)